

2012 - JCR Evaluation Form

SPECIES: Mountain Goat
 HERD: MG101 - PALISADES
 HUNT AREAS: 2

PERIOD: 6/1/2012 - 5/31/2013
 PREPARED BY: GARY FRALICK

	<u>2007 - 2011 Average</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013 Proposed</u>
Trend Count:	42	108	0
Harvest:	7	7	8
Hunters:	8	9	8
Hunter Success:	88%	78%	100%
Active Licenses:	8	78%	8
Active License Percentage:	88%	78%	100%
Recreation Days:	30	24	41
Days Per Animal:	4.3	3.4	5.1
Males per 100 Females:	0	0	
Juveniles per 100 Females	30	30	

Trend Based Objective ($\pm 20\%$)

50 (40 - 60)

Management Strategy:

Recreational

Percent population is above (+) or (-) objective:

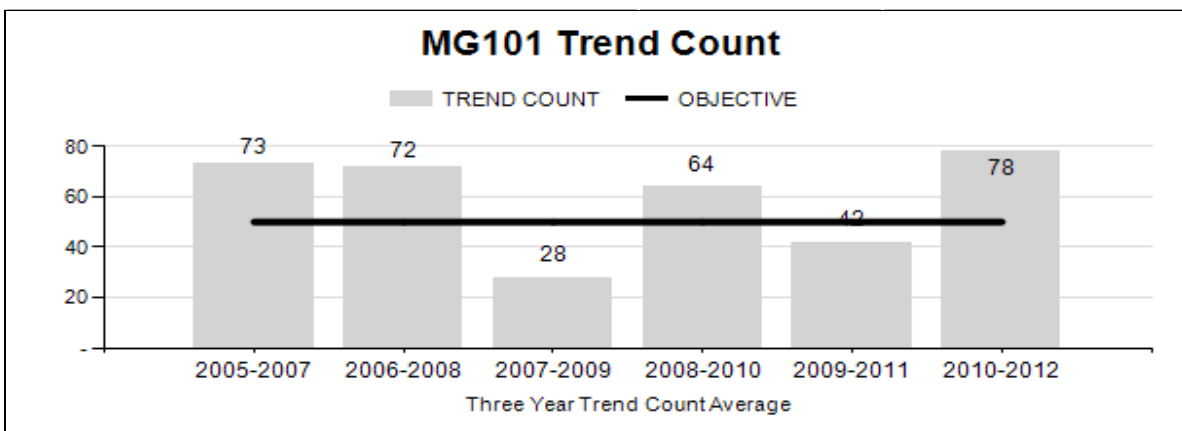
116%

Number of years population has been + or - objective in recent trend:

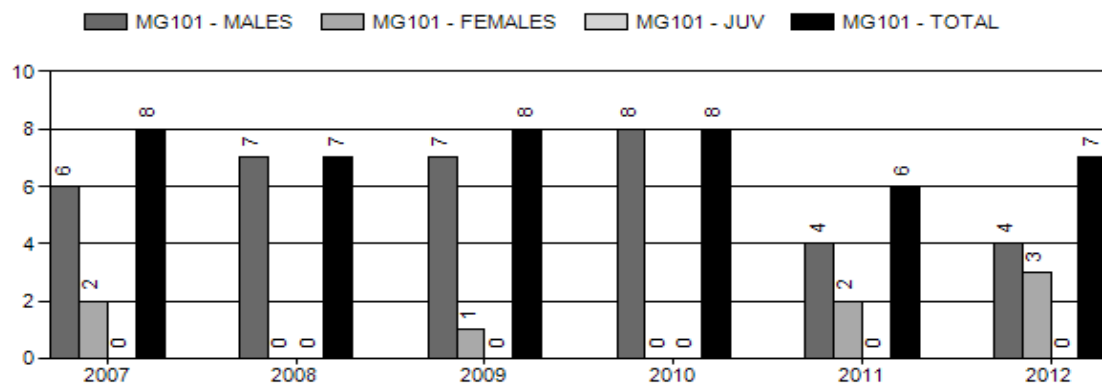
9

Proposed harvest rates (percent of pre-season estimate for each sex/age group):

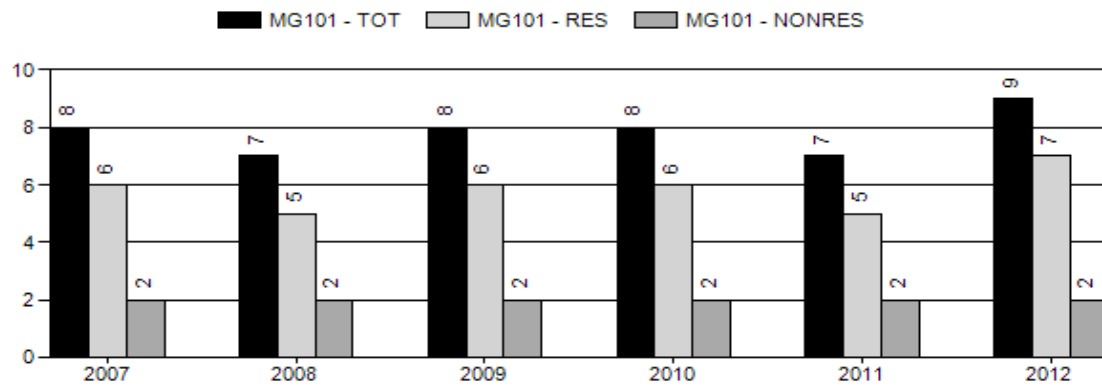
	<u>JCR Year</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Females ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Males ≥ 1 year old:	NA%	NA%
Juveniles (< 1 year old):	NA%	NA%
Total:	NA%	NA%
Proposed change in post-season population:	NA%	NA%



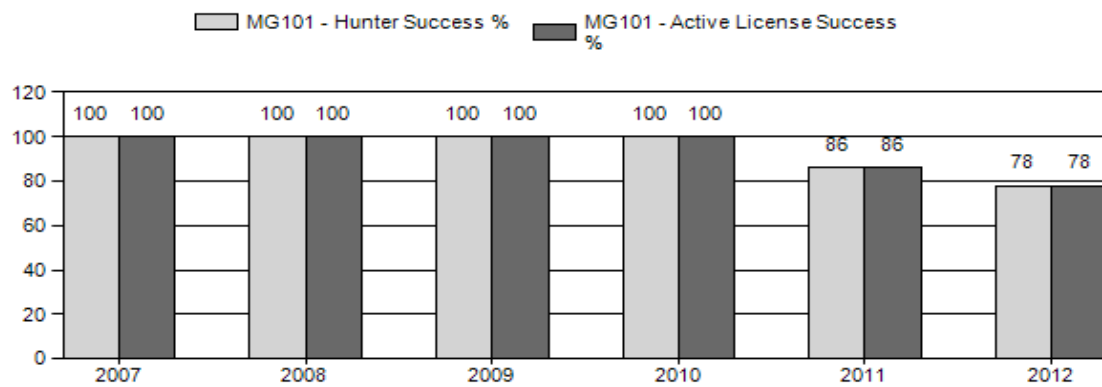
Harvest



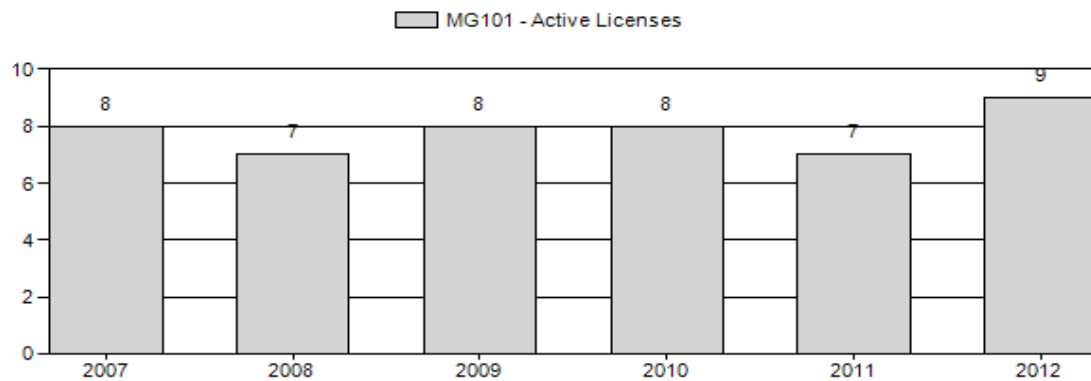
Number of Hunters



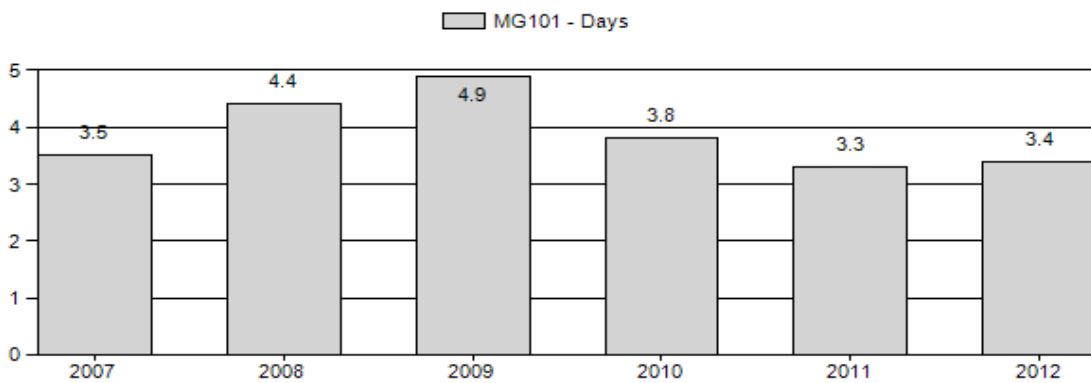
Harvest Success



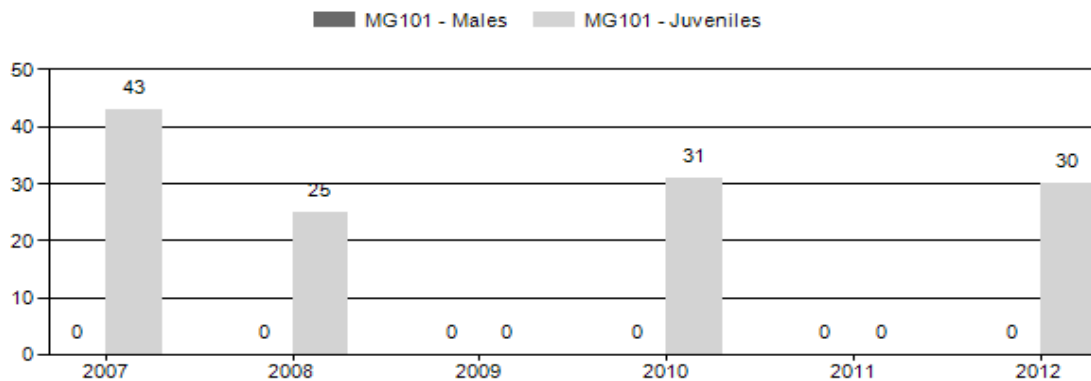
Active Licenses



Days Per Animal Harvested



Preseason Animals per 100 Females



2013 HUNTING SEASONS
SPECIES: MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD UNIT: PALISADES (MG101)

<u>HUNT AREA</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>OPENS</u>	<u>CLOSES</u>	<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>LIMITATIONS</u>
2		Sept. 1	Oct. 31	8	Limited quota licenses; any goat
		Aug. 14	Aug. 31		Limited quota licenses; Archery only; Refer to Section 4

Management Evaluation

Current Management Objective: 50

Management Strategy: Recreational

2012 Mid-Summer Trend Count: 108

Three-year Average Mid-Summer Trend Count: 80

The Palisades mountain goat population objective is 50 goats. Management strategy is recreational and the objective was established in 1999. The 2012 mid-summer trend count was 108 goats. The three-year average mid-summer trend count is 80 goats. This population has exceeded the objective over the last 9 years. The population objective will be reviewed in 2014.

HERD UNIT ISSUES

To ensure the long-term welfare of this population, Idaho and Wyoming have committed to a cooperative management effort that entails sharing population data, coordinating habitat management projects, and surveying the entire goat population concurrently every two years. Management goals of the Wyoming subpopulation have focused on maintaining a conservative hunting approach through the annual issuance of 4 - 8 licenses valid for any goat since 1999. This cooperative management approach expanded in 2013 to include the Greater Yellowstone Area Mountain Ungulate Project. The Greater Yellowstone Area Mountain Ungulate Project is a collaborative research initiative to study the ecology and population dynamics of bighorn sheep and mountain goats throughout the Yellowstone ecosystem <http://gyamountainungulateproject.com/contact.html>.

Concurrent with the relatively conservative management is a lack of knowledge associated with interstate movements, distribution, reproductive success, and fecundity. Moreover, since goats in Wyoming have never been exposed to herd specific research and monitoring efforts, the opportunity to initiate a baseline herd health monitoring effort is warranted. This initial effort to assess herd health will focus on determining the presence and

persistence of disease and parasites in a substantial segment of the Palisades goat herd that inhabits Wyoming.

Mountain goats have dispersed into Grand Teton National Park, and adjacent Wyoming bighorn sheep hunt areas 6, 7, 8, and 24. Mountain goat dispersal into these areas may present other management challenges in the future.

Greater Yellowstone Area Mountain Ungulate Project:

Project Objectives

Project objectives include: collecting migration information on segments of the Palisades mountain goat herd, documenting any interstate movements of collared goats, determining the presence of *Mannheimia* sp., *Mycoplasma* sp. and other pathogens that may potentially be transmitted to bighorn sheep; monitor herd health during the winter.

Scientific Merit/Management Relevance

Disease monitoring in mountain goat is critical, especially in those herds where little or no monitoring information has been collected. The Palisades herd is believed to be the source herd of dispersing mountain goats in western Wyoming. This population and occupies active domestic sheep allotments there is the potential that mountain goats harbor infectious diseases that are potentially lethal to bighorn sheep.

WEATHER

Weather conditions during 2012 were extremely dry during the late summer and through the hunting season. Drought conditions persisted into early winter; snowpack in the Snake River Range were reported below normal. Please refer to the following web sites for specific weather station data. <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/temp-and-precip/time-series> and <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/prelim/drought/pdiimage.html>

HABITAT

No habitat data has been collected on goat summer and winter ranges. There are no established vegetation transects in this herd unit. Please refer to the 2012 Annual Report Strategic Habitat Plan Accomplishments, pages 61-77 for Jackson Region habitat improvement project summaries (<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000708.aspx>).

HARVEST

The 2012 hunting season was the 14th year that goats were hunted in Area 2. A total of eight (8) licenses were issued; six goats were harvested. A total of four (4) billies and two (2) nannies were harvested in 2012. Since 1999, a total of 82 mountain goats (71 billies, 11 nannies) have been harvested in Hunt Area 2. Based on the age/sex of harvested

mountain goats since 1999 and the result of aerial trend counts that continue to indicate a robust mountain goat population, it is anticipated that future harvest composition will continue to be predominately male mountain goats, 2+- years of age. In addition, the expansion of the hunt area along the west slope of Teton Mountain Range will allow hunters access in areas that were otherwise not open to goat hunting. As goats to continue to expand outside of the current hunt area into the Salt Range, Wyoming Range, Gros Ventre Range, and Teton Range, the Department may consider expanding the current hunt area boundary or creating an additional hunt area.

POPULATION

Summer aerial surveys were conducted from a Bell 47 helicopter. These surveys are coordinated with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to ensure this interstate population is surveyed concurrently. Surveys were first initiated in August 1997 and subsequent surveys were conducted every other year from 1998 to 2012 (Appendix A). In 2006, a total of 130 goats were counted in Wyoming. This was a slight increase from the 121 goats counted in 2004. The total number of goats counted in 2010 and 2012 in Wyoming was 127 goats and 108 goats, respectively. Comprehensive winter surveys were not conducted in February 2007 - 2013.

Cooperative bi-state aerial trend counts will be continued in 2014. An agreement between Idaho and Wyoming ensures that this interstate goat herd will be monitored with biennial, systematic aerial surveys to determine population dynamics, movements and distribution, and collect herd composition data. Trend counts conducted over the last six years indicate a robust and well-established mountain goat population in the Wyoming portion of the Palisades herd. The population expansion and increase over the last 10 years warrants a re-evaluation of the population objective. The current objective is 50 goats. This objective review will occur in 2014, and coincide with the biennial trend count that is scheduled for that year.

Mountain goats continue to expand into areas beyond the hunt area boundary. It is believed the predominate individual dispersers are billies, as no evidence of mountain goat reproduction has been observed in the Salt Range, Wyoming Range, or Gros Venre Range. However, mountain goats are successfully reproducing within the boundaries of Grand Teton National Park. These dispersing individuals will be noted as necessary, and when sufficient goats are consistently and regularly documented in areas beyond the current hunt area boundary a hunt season may be developed.

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The 2013 recommendation for Palisades Mountain Goat is eight (8) licenses, valid for any goat. The proposed season would run September 1 – October 31. The proposed number of licenses will remain at eight in response to the number of goats observed in August 2012 in Wyoming, and the generally low percentage (13%) of reproductive age nannies harvested since the hunt was initiated in 1999. The size of the hunt area will expand in

2013 in an effort to harvest goats that have dispersed from the Palisades herd into the Teton Range. The increased hunt area size will provide additional hunter recreation as the area will expand to include a portion of the national forest north of U.S. Highway 22.

A total of eight (8) goats are projected in the 2013 harvest. The anticipated harvest will consist of 7 billies, and one (1) nanny. Based on the projected harvest and movement of goats into Wyoming from Idaho, the Wyoming portion of the population should continue to remain above the population objective.

APPENDIX A
SNAKE RIVER MOUNTAIN RANGE
MOUNTAIN GOAT POPULATION SURVEYS
IDAHO/WYOMING

Idaho Summary of Mountain Goat Surveys in Unit 67 South of Palisades
Creek, 1982-Present (Mt. Baird area).

Year	Hunt Area	Inclusive Location	Adults	Kids	Unknown	Total	<u>Ratio</u> Kid:100 Adult
1982 ^a	67-1	South of Palisades	33	13	0	46	39
1985 ^a		Creek to ID./WY.	35	16	0	51	46
1986 ^b		Stateline	0	0	104	104	--
1986 ^a			37	15	0	52	41
1988 ^b			71	21	0	92	30
1990 ^b			45	18	0	63	40
1993 ^b			104	33	16	153	34
1994 ^a			73	42	0	115	58
1996 ^a			151	66	0	217	44
1998 ^a			118	45	0	163	38
2000 ^a			61	29	0	90	48
2002 ^a			35	7	0	42	20
2004 ^a			83	24	0	107	29
2006 ^a			103	19	0	122	18
2008 ^a			96	27	0	123	28
2010 ^a			96	33	0	129	34
2012 ^a			87	23	0	113	26

Wyoming Summary of Mountain Goat Surveys, Hunt Area 2, Palisades
Goat Herd, 1996-Present

Year	Hunt Area	Inclusive Location	Adults	Kids	Unknown	Total	<u>Ratio</u> Kid:100 Adult
1996 ^a	2	Wyoming – Palisades	16	8	0	24	50
1997 ^a		Goat Herd	34	20	0	54	59
1998 ^a			47	15	0	62	32
2000 ^a			58	18	0	76	31
2002 ^a			37	17	0	54	46
2004 ^a			90	31	0	121	34
2006 ^a			98	32	0	130	33
2008 ^a			52	13	0	65	33
2010 ^a			97	30	0	127	31
2012 ^a			83	25	0	108	30

^a Helicopter survey (August).

^b Ground count.

